GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4596
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2014
INTERNET CABLE LANDING STATIONS
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Internet cable landing stations along with the ownership distribution in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to break the monopoly in fixing high charges for bandwidth by companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) Madam, Internet Service providers and International Long Distance service providers are permitted to establish internet cable landing station. So far, Cable landing stations have been established at 12 locations, by International Long Distance service providers namely, Tata Communications Limited (5 Nos), Bharti Airtel Limited (4 Nos), Reliance Communications Limited (2 Nos) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (1 No).

(b) to (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released "The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-Location Charges Regulations, 2012" (No. 27 of 2012) on 21.12.2012. The said Regulation was challenged by the telecom operators in Madras High Court. Hon'ble Madras High Court has stayed the implementation of TRAI's Regulation vide its orders dated 24.01.2013 & 21.02.2013.